

**Transition to Adult Living  
Year 2 Implementation Plan  
Task Groups  
Revised December 21, 2004**

**Goal:**                   **Positive Sense of Self  
Supportive and Enduring Relationships  
Health Care Access**

**Task Group:**           **Transition Planning**

**Strategy:**           Design and implement the philosophy, policies, services and supports for adolescent youth in DCFS custody

**Tasks:**           Complete “Exhibit 7” for each TAL goal to identify the process steps and intermediate outcomes.  
Identify best practices from other states and incorporate models into Utah’s transition planning process.  
Review feedback and recommendations from the assessments conducted in each DCFS region  
Develop a single comprehensive service plan for older youth that addresses the TAL vision and goals  
Develop a standard curriculum for life skills classes that provides hands-on learning in a workshop format  
Develop the practice guidelines for the DCFS Independent Living Program  
Provide assistance to youth to establish, maintain, and strengthen relationships with family members, friends, and others

**Task Members:**   Patti VanWagoner, Chair  
Barbara Thompson, DHS  
Eric Jenkins, DCFS  
Stacey Brubaker, Valley Mental Health  
Katie Gregory, Administrative Office of the Courts  
Ron Harrell, JJS  
Jane Lewis, SAMH  
Local DCFS Administrator  
Vicki Cottrell, NAMI  
Daniel Burleigh, U Foster Success  
Pat Baker, Allies with Families  
Youth  
Foster Parents  
Provider

**Task Group:**           **Youth Leadership**

**Strategy:**           Actively involve youth in planning, implementing and evaluating the TAL Initiative

**Tasks:** Implement and support a statewide youth council and local youth councils in each region of the state.  
Plan and conduct an annual youth leadership summit  
Provide leadership training and opportunities for older foster youth and foster alumni to improve transition services at the state and local level

**Task Members:** Barbara Feaster, Co-Chair  
Lisa McDonald, Co-Chair  
Herman Hooten, DCFS  
Bob Hayward, DHS  
Lauren McGinnis – Allies with Families  
Brad Metcalf—private citizen, just graduated from UVSC  
Foster Youths  
IL specialist

**Task Group:** **Aftercare**

**Strategy:** Provide resources, services, and supports to youth after they leave foster care

**Tasks:** Determine the services and supports youth need after they age out of foster care  
Identify the agencies and individuals to provide the aftercare services and financial assistance  
Implement and monitor the expansion of Medicaid coverage to age 21  
Establish pathways to mental health, substance abuse and DSPD assessment and treatment services for youth leaving foster care.  
Develop a Medicaid New Born Plus pamphlet specifically designed for youth leaving foster care and monitor the use of the program  
Establish a process to smoothly transition foster youth from a child serving service system to an adult service system  
Implement and monitor a program to teach youth to manage their physical and mental health conditions.

**Task Members:** Vicki Cottrell, Co-Chair  
Pam Russell, Co-Chair  
George Delavan, DOH  
Chris Chytraus, DOH,  
Tim Whalen, SLC Substance Abuse  
Jane Broadhead, DWS  
Ken Hull, DCFS  
Jacky Stokes, DOH  
Jennifer Mayfield, DOH  
Ann Foster, Valley Mental Health  
DSAMH  
DSPD

Sarah Pomeroy, DCFS  
David Evans, Christmas Box House  
John Lauti, Qwest  
Heather Palmer, U Foster Success  
Providers  
Foster youth  
Foster youth alumni

**Task Group:** **Out-of-Home Placement**

**Strategy:** Develop and implement a model for caretakers serving older youth in foster care and residential placements.

**Task:** Review foster parent training models for adolescents and review payment rates from other states.  
Develop a model for caretakers of older youth in foster, group and residential care.

Review Rates in other states

Conduct focus groups with foster parents, providers, and foster youth to receive input on the following:

Rate structure

Role and responsibility of foster parents and providers

Licensing requirements

Liability issues

Best practices

Develop guidelines for serving older youth in out-of-home placements

**Task Members**

Patti VanWagoner, Co-Chair

Kelly Peterson, Co-Chair (Foster Care Foundation)

Amanda Singer, DHS

Angela Khairallah, DCFS

Marty Shannon, DCFS

Native American Representative

Herman Hooten, DCFS

DCFS Resource Family Consultants

Structured Foster Parents

Foster Youth

**Goal:** **Educational Attainment and Stable Employment**

**Task Group:** **Employment, Training, and Education**

**Strategy:** Develop partnerships at the local level among business, housing, social services, education, training and employment agencies to enhance youth's economic opportunities and ability to live successful as an adult

**Tasks:** Implement the "North Region Pilot Project" in each region of the state

Expand funding and tuition options for post secondary education and training for foster youth

Identify strategies to enhance and improve the Youth in Custody program

**Task Members:**

Marie Christman, Chair  
Tim Holm, DWS  
Chris Mayne, DWS  
Rebecca Banner, DWS  
Ann Barnson, DWS  
Kelly Thornton, DWS  
Wendy Hughes, DWS  
Jane Broadhead, DWS  
Tom Sitake, USH  
Mary Shumway, USOE  
Rosa McFarland, U Foster Success  
Employers  
DCFS Regional Administrative Staff

Youth in Custody Sub-Committee

Pam Russell, DCFS  
Barbara Thompson, DHS  
Amanda Singer, DHS  
Travis Cook, USOE  
Dawn Kay, USOE  
Blake Chard, JJS

**Goal:**

**Safe, Stable and Affordable Housing**

**Task Group:**

**Housing**

**Strategy:**

Create partnerships with government, private and non-profit agencies and developers to create housing for youth

**Tasks:**

Conduct local meetings in each area to:  
Assess housing needs of youth  
Develop partnerships with developers, landlords, and housing authorities to create a variety of housing options for youth

**Task Members:**

Richard Walker, Chair  
Pam Russell, DCFS  
Joe Leiker, DCFS  
Steve Titensor—SLCo. Youth Services  
Melissa Larsen—GLBT

**Administrative Functions**

**Task Group:**

**Evaluation**

**Strategy:**

Develop and implement a process and outcome evaluation for the TAL Initiative

**Tasks:**

Develop baseline data on older youth currently in foster care  
Monitor the implementation of the TAL strategies, services and products.

**Task Members:**

Conduct a leavers study to evaluate the outcomes of youth who have “aged out” of foster care  
Kelly Colopy, Chair  
Leonard Johnson, DHS  
Navina Forsythe, DCFS  
DWS  
DOH  
USOE

**Task Group:  
Strategy:**

**DCFS Action and Accomplishment Team**  
Monitor and track DCFS’s implementation of the TAL strategies at the state and local level

**Tasks:**

Review progress in implementing the TAL strategies and report to the Implementation Team on a monthly basis.  
Identify barriers to implementing the strategies and develop action plans to overcome the barriers.

**Task Members:**

Patti VanWagoner, Chair  
Pam Russell, DCFS  
Herman Hooten, DCFS  
SAFE  
Finance  
Community Service Managers  
IL Supervisors

**Task Group:  
Strategy:**

**Training Task Group**  
Create and deliver a three phase training program for caseworkers of partner agencies

**Tasks:**

Develop curriculum materials for Phase I, Orientation meetings for caseworkers from DCFS, DWS, WIA, School counselors, nurses, foster parents and providers.  
Develop and deliver skill-based training to caseworkers on the Transition to Adult Living policy and practices  
Conduct an annual Transition to Adult Living Institute

**Task Members**

JJ Farrington, Co-Chair  
Midge Delevan, Co-Chair  
Jane Broadhead, DWS  
Amanda Singer, DHS  
Barbara Thompson, DHS  
Pam Russell, DCFS  
Suzette Hudson, DWS

**Task Group:  
Strategy:**

**Marketing**  
Develop awareness of the TAL Initiative with the following target audiences:  
Foster Youth  
Allied Partner Agencies

Foster Parents and Providers

Youth

Political Leadership

General Public

**Tasks:**

Conduct a direct mail campaign to inform foster youth, foster parents and providers about available services and supports.

Provide information to allied partners in a variety of formats to include check stuffers, newsletters, and direct e-mail

Distribute information to schools to target the general youth population.

Conduct a general population media campaign.

**Task Members:**

Darin Brush, Chair

Michael Sullivan, DWS

Carol Sisco, DHS

Kurt Stewart, DWS

Mark Peterson, DWS

Amanda Singer, DHS

Celeste Edmunds, Christmas Box House

Heather Laughner, U Foster Success